

From: Robert Dalton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:45am
Subject: MS proposal

>To whom it may concern,

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>The settlement proposed in the case against Microsoft (MS) will *not*
>resolve the problems that prompted the case. This case was not about
>saving Sun Microsystems and Netscape from the abuses of MS. These two
>companies have both in their own way tried to do what MS has in abusing
>it's monopoly position in the market. Netscape was well on its way to
>destroying all other web browsers when MS came along and did the same to
>them, so I have ZERO sympathy for Netscape. Sun's efforts to control Java
>while trying to make it a "standard" are contradictory at best.

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>The problem that needs to be addressed in the MS antitrust settlement is
>"how do we make the market more competitive?". Breaking up MS won't work
>because you'll have 2+ "baby Bills" out there pulling the same
>shenanigans. The antitrust suit against IBM was dropped (for good reason),
>because IBM had reformed its practices enough to make the case
>irrelevant. MS has proven time and again they have zero respect for the
>"rule of law", and figure they can get away with anything through delay
>tactics, fake "grassroots" campaigns, PR, and huge campaign donations.

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>The current MS "abuse of monopoly" is no longer a Windows problem, but is
>an OFFICE problem. The Office Suite product line is the MS cash cow, and
>MS used Windows to create its Office monopoly. MS has control of the
>desktop OS market, and only time can erode their commanding market share there.

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>The key to getting MS to behave is force them to make MS-Office run on at
>minimum 3 other Operating Systems with the same exact functionality as the
>Windows version for 10 years. Next they must also be forced to stop giving
>discounts on Windows to OEMs that "play ball" by not promoting non-MS products.

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>If MS wants to make a donation to the schools as part of any settlement,
>then it should be "hardware only" for any monetary value. If they also
>want to donate the software, then it must be completely free and include
>unlimited usage licenses. This will allow schools to decide if they want
>MS products for free or Open Source products at the same price.